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SOME
OBSERVATIONS
FOR
Improvement of Trade,
By Establishing the
FISHERY
OF
Great Britain;

As a proper Means to
Obtain the Ballance of TRADE, employ the Poor,
and promote the Interest of the Proprietors

OF THE
SOUTH-SEA COMPANY,

Under their Direction or a COMMITTEE to be appointed for that Purpose, agreeable to their Charter, and Acts of Parliament passed for the Establishment thereof.

With some Hints how the said FISHERY may be gained in like manner as our Woollen Manufactory was by King HENRY VII. and Queen ELIZABETH.

Humbly Dedicated to His Grace

JAMES Duke of CHANDOS.

By Mr. PECK.

L O N D O N:

Printed by J. HUGHS in High-Holborn,
For T. DORMER next Door to the Castle Tavern in Fleetstreet.
MDCCXXXII.

[Price One Shilling.]

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30 JUNE 1915

2 SOUTH-SEA COMPANY.

and Act of Parliament passed for an Establishment

was by King Henry VII. and Queen Elizabeth.

Humble Dedication to His Class

JAMES Duke of Glindos.

By Mr. P. E. C. H.

LOMO

Printed by J. Huns in 1850-Hobart.
For T. Dorman next Door to the Castle Barracks in Taffest.

[Price One Shilling]



TO HIS GRACE
JAMES

Duke of Chandos.

May it please Your Grace,



OUR Grace's Con-
descention to the Pa-
tronage of the follow-
ing Sheets, is still a new Instance,
of that innate Virtue, and un-
bounded

DEDICATION.

bounded Goodness, which has ever adorn'd Your Noble Mind, and renders Your Grace universally Beloved and Esteemed. The strict Regard I have for the Welfare of my Country, and a grateful Desire of Acknowledging the Great Favours I have receiv'd from Your bounteous Hands, induc'd me to this Undertaking; and made me solicitous to advance such Propositions, as might, by being put in Execution, become useful and Advantageous to this Nation; knowing, that nothing is so acceptable to Your Grace, as that

which

DEDICATION

which tends to promote the
Trade and Interest of *Great-
Britain.*

THE Honour of having
been admitted to Your Grace's
Acquaintance and Conversation,
and the Pleasure I sometimes
had, of sharing in Your pri-
vate Hours and Retirement
from the Town, is a Happiness
of itself, sufficient to require
from me the utmost Return of
Gratitude: And though I am
not vain enough to imagine my
Endeavours can in any Measure
merit Your Grace's Protection,

yet

DEDICATION.

yet I have been sensible of the greatest Uneasiness, in wanting a favourable Opportunity to make a publick Acknowledgment of Your Favours, which I have abundantly experienc'd. I am fully convinc'd the most effectual Encouragement for the putting my Thoughts in Practice, is Your Grace's Approbation; and persuade myself, they will be the more agreeable to the Publick, as they have been receiv'd by Your Grace with that singular Indulgence, which is Natural to You, and is not the least of those distinguishing Virtues,

DEDICATION

tues, by which you have gain'd
an unfought Popularity, and
without either Study or Design,
have made Yourself one of the
most Amiable Persons of the
present Age.

I have here, My Lord, a co-
pious Subject before me, which,
if I were capable of pursuing, I
must relate a Thousand Orna-
ments and Graces which contri-
bute to make You Estimable ;
but as I am well acquainted with
Your Grace's particular Deli-
cacy, by which You are not more
careful to deserve the greatest
Praises

P. H. P. E. C. K.

DEDICATION

Praises, than You are nice in receiving the least; I shall only presume to add, that I am, with the greatest Zeal,

Your GRACE'S

Most Oblig'd

Most Dutiful and

Devoted Humble Servant,

March 27.
1731.

PH. PECK.



T H E

Author's Preface.



THE Inclination of contributing my Endeavours to the Service of my Country, has induced me to communicate the following Observations on that much neglected Branch of Trade; the FISHERY.

The Increase of Credit, the various Corporations with large Capital Funds at present establish'd, the low Interest of Money, the heavy Burthen the Poor are to several Parishes, the Necessity of encouraging a Nursery of Seamen, to equip our Men of War and Merchant Ships, are such Inducements, as at present naturally favour the Establishment of the Fishery, in such a particular Manner, as yet has never been offered to this Nation.

A small Aid from every trading Company, or Parish, by either a voluntary Subscription, or Tax of Parliament, would scarce be felt,
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P R E F A C E.

but the Benefit accruing to each, would soon be found by the Money subscribed, and the Employment of the Poor, which wou'd be then set to work in each respective Parish.

It is the FISHERY, that makes Holland so great, and free from Objects of Misery and Want, too much seen and felt among Us at Home; and when we have so favorable an Opportunity to employ our Poor, and add Riches to our Riches, and as Nature, Art, and Industry contributing to furnish us with all the Helps we can desire; it is to be hop'd, we shall not longer continue Strangers to this noble Branch of Trade; for it is certain, the Fishery is of so great Importance, that I make no Scruple to affirm, that according to the present Conduct of Affairs, there is no Part of Trade which deserves more our Attention and Application than this Article of Commerce.

To be convinc'd of this Truth, we have nothing else to do, but consider the Difference there is between those Countries who have no Part in this Trade; and yet what a Figure Holland bears with a Branch of it, upon Sufferance only.

And if the Hollanders, who labour under many Inconveniencies of purchasing almost all their Materials for the Fishery from Foreigners, make so great an Advantage by the Trade, how much more considerable must it be to us, who can raise Timber, Cordage, Iron, Salt, and every thing else necessary within ourselves, or from our own
Plan-

P R E F A C E.

Plantations, and the principle Article, which is Fish, on our very Coast? Whereas the Dutch must be many Months out, and victual accordingly, and return again to Holland to repack great part of the Fish taken, before they export the same to foreign Markets.

The small Experiment lately made by Mr. Gordon of Potfoy, in the North of Scotland, sufficiently proves the Practicableness of the Undertaking to very great Advantage, and evidently shews, that, by Diligence, we may easily out-do the Dutch herein; tho' scarce any thing can come up to what the Dutch have done by COMMERCE in other Respects; and it will ever be a Subject of Astonishment and Wonder, that a Handful of Men that fled into a little Country, which hardly produc'd enough to subsist its Inhabitants, should beat down the exorbitant Power of the Spanish Monarchy, and, under the Protection of the Crown of England, incline the King of Spain to desire Peace, that they should lay the Foundation of so mighty a Republick, which we see at present almost hold the Ballance between all the other Powers of Europe: But what is more surprizing and wonderful is, that the Wars never interrupted their Trade; and that it was in the very Heat of War that they laid the Foundations of the Trade to the East-Indies and Africa; and that they should trade with their Enemies, the Spaniards, in Spite of all the Precautions to the contrary, which very much contributed to the Support of that War.

P R E F A C E.

The States-General of the United Provinces seeing the Industry of these Merchants to be of so great Service to the Republick, protected and favour'd them in every thing, and it may be justly observ'd that, without their Assistance, they could never have been able to carry on their Trade to such an Extent, or to put so glorious an End to the War as they did.

We see by them, what Advantage Commerce is to a Nation, when it is regulated with Prudence, and carried on by able and honest Merchants, who have all Protection and no Constraint laid upon them; and which in Great-Britain may be so happily enjoyed, we need not doubt of the like Success, being every way better situated.

Nothing but Commerce can enrich a Kingdom, for let us turn our Eyes to Spain, and it is certain, that there is no Nation in the World has so little Gold and Silver as the Spaniards, tho' those two Mettals are produced in such prodigious Quantities in their foreign Dominions; other Nations notwithstanding, are better provided therewith, on Account of the great Vent their Commodities have in Spain, and the dependent Kingdoms, which have Occasion for them; and in short, that great Monarchy has fallen to Decay, purely for having neglected Commerce. It was this Negligence which was one of the principal Springs of the Riches of France; for while France traded with Spain, she never wanted Gold or Silver, not even during those long and difficult Wars: Let us look back and consider what Condition France was in, by the
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Pyrenean Treaty, notwithstanding a long War of above Twenty-five Years, and all those she has since sustained and supported.

It is much to be wished we would open our Eyes, and take Notice of the Fishery of so much Importance to the Improvement of Commerce, and endeavour to persue such Measures as may bring it to Issue; on which, in some Measure, depends the Happiness of all his Majesty's Subjects, and the Grandeur of the Nation.

It is by Means of the Fishery, and other Branches of Trade, that the Dutch are so considerable as to influence the Affairs of Europe, which make up the principal Part of their Policy: ---- And from the very Beginning of that Republick, the States-General have always used their utmost Endeavours to secure the Herring Fishery to their Countrymen; their Regulations for that Purpose are very wonderful, and their Orders very prudent.

They take great Care to throw all away that are not extreemly good, and to salt the Fish as they take them out of the Sea; and are careful that the Salt be good, and the Quantity sufficient; that the Cask be sweet and clean, and have no manner of Defect that may spoil the Fish. It must be owned that the Dutch omit nothing that may keep up the Value and Reputation this Commodity has acquired throughout all Europe, by passing through their Hands.

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P R E F A C E.

It ought not to be thought strange, that the States-General are so very careful of their Herring Fishery, and of the best Methods of curing them, since it is a Matter of so great Importance to them, as to betaken Notice of in all their Proclamations for the Continuance of COMMERCE,

The Herring Fishery is the greatest Trade belonging to the United Provinces; this enriches so many Families, and employs so many People, especially the poorer Sort; this makes them build so many Ships in Holland, which they send to several Parts laden with Fish; they sell vast Quantities, to the Neighbouring Countries, and even some to Great-Britain itself, whence they are caught, and are very often paid in ready Money; 'tis this which encreases their Commerce, their Privileges, and their REVENUES.

And all these Benefits they enjoy, we of Great Britain may partake of, and to a greater Advantage than they can do, by supplying foreign Parts, and our own Cities and Towns with Fish, to be taken on our own Coast, if we would accept of the Blessing which Nature affords, and invites us to ENJOY and REJOYCE in.

SOME



SOME
OBSERVATIONS
FOR

Improvement of TRADE,

By Establishing the

FISHERY of *Great-Britain.*



THE great Inducement that the People of any Country have to think of TRADE, is a natural Inclination to the Sea, which in a great Degree, beyond those of the *Continent-Islanders* always have; but Art may do more in some, than what Nature has done in others; and a Nation by Custom may be brought to have a *Sea-faring* Inclination, tho' the Desire of Gain, which perhaps is the present Case of *France*, their piratical Designs, and want of
Salt-

Salt-Petre, have made them more acquainted with the *East-India Shores* than formerly; their Privateers and great Ships have visited the Coast of *Africa*; they have extended their Trade to *Turky*, the *West-Indies*, and are no Strangers to our *Islands*, *Plantations*, and *Settlements* there, the Profits and Advantages they have gain'd in their Voyages, and by Privateering, have brought a great many of their Men to like and love the Sea; so that Trade in Process of Time may come into that Kingdom with great Success, and be no longer the Effect of Force and Art, but to arise from a *Genius* in the People, by much Practice and Advantage.

Their *Newfoundland Fishery*, by Encroachments on us, has considerably increas'd their Seamen and Shipping; and it is a certain Maxim, that all States are powerful, as they flourish in the *Fishing Trade*.

Wherever a great Number of Men, either by Inclination or Custom love the Sea, that Country will extend its Commerce abroad, for all Nations would enjoy it, if they could: Some Places, indeed, have neither Stock nor convenient Ports, and others want Hands to carry on the Work; but where they have *Stocks*, *Ports*, and *Hands* join'd together, they need not long be without the Benefit of *Foreign Traffick*; upon which Account we ought to consider in time of Peace, that the *French*, and other Nations, will every where try

try to incroach upon us; that the *French* will endeavour to enlarge their *Fishery*, upon a better Foot, that they will strengthen those *Plantations* and *Colonies* they have already in their Possession in the *West-Indies*, and give Encouragement for new Discoveries.

Mr. *Dampier* in his excellent *Journals*, has given the publick sufficient Proof, that the *Spaniards* have left room enough for future Industry; and that all the Countries yielding *Gold* and all the *Silver-Mines* are not in their Possession.

As the *French* have settled on the *River-Mississippi* in the *Gulph of Mexico*, it may not be long before they make themselves Masters of that rich Province, which will be an Addition to their Strength, and more particularly prejudicial to *Great-Britain*; for by the Opportunity of that Settlement, and erecting *Forts* along the several Lakes between that River and *Canada*, they may in Time interrupt our Trade to the *Northern Plantations*: And tho' the *French* should invade and disturb us no where beyond the *Line*, which is hardly possible; yet such an Increase and Addition to their *Naval Power*, as new *Plantations*, and the extended Trade and a large Continent will bring; can be no pleasing Prospect to *Great-Britain*.

As to *Holland*, if the *National Stock* of that State be increased above Eight Millions since the War, as there is Reason to believe it is; in regard, that by the Wisdom of their Constitu-

tion, they have invited People daily to them, and increase in Number of Inhabitants, that in all their Councils they have look'd chiefly to the Protecting of their Merchants Fleets; that their Care of *Traffick* has preceeded all their Thoughts of War, and that almost their whole Expence has been at Home.

If their Condition and Circumstances have been improved, at the same Time that ours has visibly decayed, by different ways; it is evident we ought to change Hands, and fall upon proper Measures to improve our *Fisheries*; for we have not only Natural Advantages over them, as to the Fish itself being our own Produce, but our situation, Ports, Soil, &c. enable us more than enough to Contend with all the World, if we are not wanting in Courage and Conduct.

It is said that the *Dutch fish* and sell above 300,000 Tuns, of which at 200 *Florins per Tun*, brings in every Year 75 Millions of *Livers*, of which 52 Millions turn, as they say, to the Countrys Profit, and the 23 Millions that remain go towards defraying the Charge of the *Fishery*; so that considering all the Ships they imploy in *Fishing* are built in *Holland*, that all the *Cordage, Sails, Netts, and Barrels* are made there, and that they find *Salt and Provisions* for the Subsistence of this great Number of Fishermen; one may easily comprehend that this Employment alone maintains an incredible Number of Families,

milies, not including those who are employ'd to transport the *Fish* taken by them to almost all the Kingdoms and Countries of the World.

The main Care and Management of *Traf-fick*, chiefly consists in well Governing, Encouraging, and Protecting the general Trade of the *Nation*; for all which no single, Part seems furnish'd with Power sufficient, but the Work must be perform'd by the concurrent Assistance of the whole Legislative Authority.

To find out and establish reasonable, just, and convenient Rules for the Government of the *Fishery*, will be no small Difficulty; but if that be once compass'd, it may be easy enough to give it Encouragement and Protection afterwards.

All Things must succeed ill, where good Government is wanting; and where Men are left to take *Measures* only from their own private Interest, or voracious Appetite of Gain.

Nothing considerable can be well govern'd that is not plac'd under the peculiar Care of some one Person or Body of Men, and no Person can rightly Govern any matter, unless they are first rightly instructed and furnish'd with proper Directions and *coercive Powers*.

As the *Fishery* of *Great-Britain*, which is the common concern of all the Nation, may be made the particular Business of a Committee of Men of *Integrity, Experience and Knowledge*; and being Members or *Proprie-*

tors of the *South-Sea Company*, may be arm'd with sufficient Power from a General Court of the said Company; and by that Means a proper Stock may be appropriated, or rais'd by Subscription, to be manag'd by such a *Committee* for carrying on the *Fisbery* of *Great-Britain*, to the particular Advantage of the Members, and the general Interest and Welfare of the Kingdom.

To any one who has thought upon this Subject, 'tis apparent enough, that the Stock and Wealth of this Country might have been very much improv'd and enlarg'd, if we would have added Industry and Conduct to the Advantage we hold from Nature and Situation.

The Care of *Trade* in General, does indeed belong to the executive Power now in Being, and is properly the Business of the establish'd Ministry: But if they have not from the Laws, *Authority* sufficient to go through with such a Work, or if their Time is taken up in more important Affairs, it may well become the Wisdom of a Parliament to interpose in the Matter, and to make some timely Provision, that those Mischiefs may be prevented, which a Neglect of this Nature, must certainly occasion to the People of *Great-Britain*,

The Original of *Executive Power*, springs from this, that the whole Legislative Power cannot be always assembled, and the Nature
of

of Things requires of many Authorities, that they should be acted by a single Person, or at most, by a few.

All *Executive Power* originally is in the King, who not being able to perform every *Function* of *State* in his own Person, commits part of his Authority to other People, who represent him in the Courts of Justice, in his Armies, his Fleets, and his Revenues : And when the *Executive Power* is thus divided, if the publick Service require yet more Help, it is agreeable with the *Constitution*, for the *Legislative Authority*, to make a further Division, and commit new Powers to other Persons for the carrying on, or better Government of any particular Branch of Business; the erecting *New Companies* with Privileges under honest Management, have prov'd very fortunate to many Nations, especially where the People have a *Share* and *Interest* in the same; for next to a prudent *Administration*, rather that *Matters* in *Trade* should be carry'd on according to their own Sentiments and Direction; and many wise *Law-Givers*, *Rulers*, and *Directors* of *Kingdoms* and *Common-wealths*, have herein follow'd the Bent and Humour of the People, by which Means they are sure to gain one main Point, that is, either to have the *Affairs* better manag'd, or to let the People see it could not be better directed, by *Officers* of their own *Choice* and *Appointment*.

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Our Commerce, especially the *Fishery*, is not to be recover'd, but by Men of *Skill* and *Conduct*, to examine into the Advantages other Countries daily gain over us, and to supply our own Occasions at Home; for which Reason in all Appearance, hardly any Person will have Weight enough for so important an Affair, unless by the Encouragement of the whole *Legislative Authority*.

For in the well Government and Protection of the *Fishery*, many things must perhaps be done, that may in some measure thwart the *Interest* of other Nations; and this ungrateful Office is perform'd more agreeably, at least more unexceptionable; when executed by *Authority* of *Parliament*, than by any single Part of the *Constitution*; for those Formalities which pass among Princes, are not expected from Assemblies, met to proceed in *Business* for their common *Safety* and *Advantage*.

The Company may be as a *Guard* and *Watch*, that the Affairs relating to the *Fishery* be not carelessly overlook'd, or neglected by our *Ministers Abroad*; and that important *Points* of that *Trade* be not lost for want of due *Application*, to assert the *Interest* of *Great-Britain* in *Foreign Courts*.

They may be inform'd from time to time, by a Correspondence with such *Ministers*, how the Nature of that *Trade* stands, and also upon what Foot we deal with the respective Nations,

Nations wherein they reside, and our *British Fish* are vendible; what Improvement may be made for the future? What Manufacture received among them? And what Commodities we import from other *Countries*, which might as well be furnished from *Great-Britain*? They might likewise prepare for the *Parliament*, a more regular and better digested *Scheme* for the Employment of the *Poor*; and if those were set to Work, as they might be in the *Fishery*, it would ease the Landed Gentlemen and others, advance our Manufactures, and in process of Time very much enrich the Kingdom.

It has been all along a strange Piece of Negligence in the People of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, that they have not taken *Measures*, at least to *share* with our *Neighbours* the *Dutch*, in that immense Treasure which Nature has enriched our *Coast* withal; and that will admit of but one Excuse, that for these last hundred Years, *Wealth* has flow'd in so fast upon us, that we had no Occasion to be more Industrious: But the Case may be otherwise, and if we continue our Negligence of this Great Branch of Trade, we may expect further *Incroachments*, without being hereafter in a Capacity to obtain *Redress*.

Sir *Walter Rawleigh* sets forth, that the *Fishery* turns to Ten Millions *per Ann.* Profit to the *Hollanders*; tho' it may not be so much, yet it is apparent to any who has enquired
into

into the *Nature* of their *Trade*; that it is very profitable to their *Country*, and is the *Foundation* of their *Wealth*.

These great Advantages are made on our Coast, where formerly they did not fish without *Licence* under the *Great Seal* of *England*; which, 'till the latter End of the Reign of *K. James I.* they always procured before they began their *Fishery*; but now they are so far from asking Leave, that they'll hardly suffer any *English Vessels* to fish in *Quiet* when they happen to come among them.

This Beneficial *Trade*, which the *Hollanders* have often in their Edicts call'd the *Golden-Mine* of the *Common-Wealth*; we first by Remissness let them gain, and now they have in a Manner ingrossed it, because the *South-Sea Company* has hitherto neglected the same, and a *publick Spirit* has been wanting among others, by which this great Work might be brought about; and some are so ignorant, as to be of Opinion, that it is not possible for us to have any Part with our Neighbours in this *gainful Business*. For it is alledged, that the *Hollanders* build cheaper than we; that their Seamen's *Wages* are lower, that they live at less Expence, that the Interest of Money is higher here than there, that consequently they can afford the *Commodity* at an easier Rate, and that he that sells cheapest, is sure to ingross the Market.

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These are the Objections commonly made to any Proceedings upon this great *Undertaking*: But we can by no means admit these *Allegations* to be true; on the contrary, we may build in many Parts as cheap *per Tun* as they can, the Goodness and Duration of the Timber and other Materials considered: And, as to the *Wages*, the *Hollanders* go all by way of *Adventurer*; and, I am well inform'd, our *Seamen* would willingly proceed in the same Manner, as is now the *Custom* in many Parts of *North-Britain*; and as to Provision, we *viſtual* our *Fishing Vessels* in *Scotland* as cheap as they. For *Pease*, *Butter*, &c. they are generally supplied from *England*, and as to the remaining Consideration of Interest of Money, that is low enough now with us.

But suppose we should *fish* five or ten *per Cent.* dearer than the *Dutch*, for the first two or three Years; yet it may be proved, that, notwithstanding such a Disadvantage, 'tis highly necessary that the same should be attempted by *Great-Britain*, and for the following Reasons.

The *Dutch* trade into the *Sound*, all the *East-Country*, *Denmark*, *Russia*, *Sweden* and *Germany*, for near a Million *Sterling* every Year in *Fish* only, and we import from those Parts in *Naval Stores* of all Kinds; and for *Building* about 400,000 *l. per Ann.* for most of which, we send out Money in *Specie*, or by *Exchange*: And our Ships carry only

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Ballast, except a small Quantity of *coarse Woollen Goods* and *Salt*.

Now should we send out *Fish*, it would make the *Ballance* of *Trade* more equal between us and those Countries; because then, we should carry *Fish* thither instead of Money, and that *Fish* to cost nothing but the Trouble of catching, besides the Curing, it becomes the *Original Commodity* of a Country, and increases the *Exportations* thereof.

Suppose we should *fish* something dearer than the *Hollanders*, yet this would be recompenced to the People, collectively considered; by the very Freight which would be obtained by the *Shipping* for our *Northward* and *East-Country Trade*, which must otherwise go almost empty; and this will hold good in relation to our *Trade* with *France* and other Places, where our *Exportations* bear no Proportion, at least in Bulk, with our *Importations*, which might be in like manner supplied by the *Fishery*.

A Nation that visibly looses in the *Ballance* of *Trade* with any *Country*, will find little Help by laying *Duties* at Home, or by *Prohibitions* which most commonly fructify one, by begetting another, and in all Appearance the best Course in such a Case will be to endeavour to answer *Importations* from abroad, by *Exportations* of our own *Product*, and there are good Grounds to think that the *Fishery Trade*, if it were carried on, promoted, encouraged, and well

well settled, would set *England* right with most Countries where the Ballance is thought to lye against us.

But if it should be made appear, that what cost the *Dutch* Five Shillings, we may have for Two Shillings, and that we are not any ways obliged to *fish* with the Inconveniency as they do, and cannot avoid; but in a quite different Manner at less *Expence* and *Hazard*; and if this be made out, most certainly all true *Englishmen* ought to contribute to set such an Undertaking forward.

The *Dutch* having no *Fishery* on their own *Coast* that is considerable, they are forced to send out every Year above 200 Leagues from home; where they send Doggers, or Busses, from 70 to 120 Tuns or upwards, with fourteen, fifteen, or more Men in each, with Provisions for at least three Months: And these Vessels drive at Sea, and are forced to do all things aboard, *Curing* and *Packing* their *Fish*, mending and drying their *Netts*, &c. so that, considering the *Expence* of fitting out, the *Ware* and *Tare*, *Provisions* and *Wages* every *Barrel* of *Herrings* cost them, as they fall from the *Nett* about six Shillings *per Barrel*.

Now the *Herrings* being not only on our *Coast*, but in our *Havens*, *Lakes* and *Bays*, our Men that *fish*, may lye in their own Beds on Shore, every Week or Night, and in Boats call'd three Men and five Men Cobles, having a *Company* or *Persons* ready to take off their

Fish to Cure and Pack, will catch as many *Herrings* in a Month, as a *Dutch Dogger* of 100 Tons and fifteen Men shall do in two Months lying at *Sea*; and these Persons with *Cobles* and *Vessels*, being employ'd on the *Coast* by those that will take the *Fish* off their Hands as they catch them, may deliver *Herrings* at 1 s. and 6 d. and sometimes 1 s. per Barrel; which low Price of the *prime Commodity*, must very soon, under a good Management, bring a *fair Proportion* to *Great-Britain* of this *gainful Trade*. And this *Advantage* we have in the first Cost, will be more than equivalent to any *Advantage* our Neighbours may have, in being able to *Manufacture* or improve the *Commodity* cheaper than we in some Particulars, which is hardly practicable, because we have Salt, Casks, Labour, and the *Fish*, at as cheap Rates as they.

So that there seems only wanting to bring so *immence a Treasure* to *Great-Britain*, as the *Herring Fishery* would produce for the *South-Sea Company*, to appropriate a *necessary Fund* which by Authority of Parliament is granted them, to set the Undertaking on Foot, or to give Encouragement to other Members under the Direction of a *New Committee*, or some other Company to proceed therein.

The *Commodity* sufficiently abounds, if there were a Fund appropriated, by which we might make Improvements; for it is frequently the Case, that for want of a Stock
of

of Salt, Casks, and Shipping to carry the *Fish* to *Foreign Markets*, that *Quantities* of *Fish* taken, has been thrown away.

It is Matter of Admiration, that we should neglect such a profitable Jewel lying at our very Doors, to induce our Neighbours to come and take it up at so great a *Distance*, with such Inconveniency and *extraordinary Expence*; but this they have been encourag'd to do by their low *Interest* of *Money*, natural Inclination to Trade, and our Neglect thereof; and undoubtedly we could not cope with them at any time in this *Trade*, if we were upon the same Footing with them, in all other Circumstances relating to this *Matter*; that is to say, if we were to go and *fish* upon their *Coast* with large *Vessels* and Numbers of Men, and the same *Provisions* as are necessary: But our Situation has made this *Traffick* easy to us, and laid it at our Feet, if the *South-Sea Company*, or any other will vouchsafe to take it up.

Upon which Account, our natural *Advantage* consider'd, he must be a very *ill Calculator* who does not conclude, that a *Company* thus establish'd, with the *Sanction* of the *Government*, may proceed upon this Undertaking, without any Fear of Loss in the End; for where there is a great Disproportion in the *prime Cost* of a *Commodity* to be improv'd, as it appears in the present Case; it will answer any Difference that may be in the *Interest*

terest of Money, between one Country and another; so that if we can *catch, cure, and pack Herrings* upon the Whole, cheaper than our Neighbours, it will more than answer the Difference that may be between us and them on any other *Account*.

So great an Undertaking, does without doubt, deserve all due Encouragement; and some will perhaps be of Opinion, that it could have but little Success, if the Legislative Authority should not interpose, to direct, help, and encourage the *whole Affair*.

In all Probability, *Subscriptions* to carry on so great a Work, may be easily obtain'd, separate from the Company's *present Stock*, since the Company hath so firm an Existence in the Law, and a *Constitution* by Authority of *Parliament* to encourage them to proceed therein.

And if such *Measures* were taken, in order to secure this profitable *Trade*, Persons of the first *Note*, greatest *Interest*, and largest *Substance*, would, no Doubt, crowd in to support and countenance the *Affair*, and by a proper Regulation for a time, keep the *Shares* and *Actions* from *Stock-jobbing*, which is too often the *Bane* of *Mercantile Societies*, by diverting the Heads of such as are concern'd in the Management, from minding their *Trade* and *Business*, and employing too much of their *Thoughts* and *Time* only upon base Arts,

Arts, to advance the *Price* of the *Shares*, before the Undertaking is improv'd.

And if it should be apprehended, that after so long a Neglect, the *present Powers* belonging to the *Company*, would not be sufficient to put their *Affairs* into such a proper Disposition, as to continue for some Duration of Time; it may be worth the Consideration of such as study the Good of the *Nation*, to reflect, whether it may not be adviseable for the *Publick*, by some *Tax*, to add 50,000 *l.* or more to the *Company*, or to the *voluntary Subscriptions* of *private Persons*; for it may be apprehended, that without such *Encouragement*, and as it were a *Foundation*, the *Company* or *private Persons*, may be loath to venture upon an *Experiment*, which has hitherto discourag'd all their *Ancestors*, by the ill Success that has attended their Endeavours; for the Matter will be difficult and expensive at first, and perhaps above the Strength of particular Men, let them be never so well inclin'd, *publick spirited*, or desirous to compass, what may be so lasting a Benefit to their *Country*; especially, considering they will have to deal with *Competitors*, who will use their utmost Efforts, and all manner of Means, to oppose, quash, and dishearten the Undertaking in its Infancy.

Suppose then, that the *Publick* should contribute to such an Undertaking 50,000 *l.* and that the *Company* appropriate, or the
Members,

Members, or others, raise by *Subscription*, what more may be necessary. And admit, that by *ill Conduct* in the Beginning, or by being underfold in the Markets abroad, the Capital Stock should be lessen'd for five Years 10,000 *l. per Ann.* Yet, if there be carry'd to the *foreign Markets* for five Years only 100,000 *l. per Annum* Value in *Fish*, even then, I dare maintain, that the *collective Body* of the *Nation* will be *considerable Gainers*, notwithstanding the *Company's* present Loss of 50,000 *l.* for the *Nation* will get by *Freight*, by *employing the Poor*, by the *Consumption* and *Exportation* of the *Commodity manufactur'd* and improv'd, should the *Undertakers* suffer, which is almost impossible to conceive; it being an undoubted Maxim, that as a *Country* may lose where a *Merchant* gets, so the *Country* may get where the *Merchant* looses; but the *Fishery* may be brought to yield a certain *Profit*, both to the *Country* and *Merchant*; for there are *apparent Reasons* to be given, why this Design should be profitable, both to the *Nation* and the *Adventurers*; and if this *Traffick* can be compass'd and brought to *Perfection*, it will employ the *Poor*, encrease our *Shipping* and *Seamen*, advance our *Exportations* bring in more *Species* of *Money*, or hinder its going out, and raise the Value of *Land*.

But

But some People may be apprehensive, that to set up the *Herring Fishery*, may interfere with the *Hollanders*, and embroil us with our *Neighbours*; but such as have rightly consider'd of this *Matter*, know very well, that there is *Fish* enough on the *British Coast*, if not in the *British Seas*, for both *Nations*; and our own *Cities* and great *Towns* would consume great *Quantities*, if the *Fish* were well *cur'd*, and *properly* sent, or convey'd to them according to their several *Situations*.

The joint Endeavours of the governing Part in each Country, may so order it, that the People of both *Dominions* may enjoy this rich Gift of *Nature*, with that mutual Friendship and good Understanding, as ought always to subsist, and be preserv'd between *Nations*, which are now almost the only *Assertors* left of *publick Liberty*.

And he must be a very *bad Englishman*, who would desire to exclude that industrious *Common-wealth* from *Trade*, which is so principal a Part of their *Subsistence*; yet it may be adviseable and prudent for this Country to enjoy a Share of it; especially, since the liberal Hand of *Nature*, and the Wants of other Places, afford sufficient *Matter* to employ the *Industrious* of both *Nations*.

Numbers of Men, Industry, advantageous Situation, good Ports, Skill in Maritime Affairs, with a good annual Income from the Sea, are true and lasting *Riches* to a *Country*: But to

put a Value upon this, and to give Life and Motion to the Whole, there must be a quick Stock running among the People; and always where that *Stock* increases, the *Nation* grows *strong* and *powerful*; and where it visibly decays, *publick Ruin* generally follows: *Money* and *Credit* naturally help each other; *Money* is the *Foundation* of *Credit*, and where *Credit* obtains, *Money* will *circulate* the better, and less will serve.

The well establishing the *Fishery* will therefore very much consist in the *Measures* that shall be taken to restore the *Credit* and *Advantage* thereof.

As that increases, it will bring out *Money* to *circulate*, which will be no longer hoarded, when something is set up in its *Room*, that in common *Estimation* will be of *greater Value*, which it will be by producing a *Dividend* of more than *legal Interest*.

To contrive for the *Publick*, and promote the *Common Good*, ought not only to be the Care of those to whom the *Administration* of *Affairs* is committed, but all private Persons should bend their Study the same way; and whoever has receiv'd any *Lights*, either from *Nature*, *Education*, or *Experience*, ought to communicate it for the Good of his Country, as he who has gather'd any *useful Observations*, by contemplating the Growth and Fall of *Monarchies* and *States*, and by weighing the different Events of *wise* and *foolish Councils*,

Councils, should publish them for the Good of others; so they whose Understanding move in a *lower Sphere*, and have employ'd the best of their *Time* and *Thoughts* in considering the *Revenues*, *Trade*, and *common Business* of a *Kingdom*, if they have gain'd any Knowledge, either by Study or Practice, should offer it to the *Publick*, since thereby, at least, they may furnish Materials, and give some Hints for more able Heads and Hands to improve upon their Notions, for the Benefit of his *Native Country*,

Many may imagine, they owe no more to their Country, than to fight in its Defence, to pay the *Prince* his *Dues*, to be just to one another, *obedient* to the *Laws*, *charitable* in relieving and visiting the Afflicted: 'Tis true; these are *Vertues*, with which, if a Majority of the People are not addicted to, the Government must run into *immediate Confusion*; but a great deal more than all these *Vertues* is necessary to make a Country flourish.

Upon these Grounds and Principles, it is offer'd to the *publick Consideration*, whether it may not be adviseable, and for the Interest of *Great-Britain*, to promote the carrying on the *Fisbery*, settled by the *Legislative Authority* in the *South-Sea Company*; and to give them such further Encouragement, as shall be thought fair, just, and reasonable, by the united *Wisdom* of the Nation,

It may be objected, that the *Fishery* having been so long carry'd on by the *Dutch*, it will be impracticable to establish that Commerce to any Advantage to ourselves: But give me Leave to remind you, how our *Wool* was formerly carry'd abroad, manufactur'd there, and, when wrought into *Cloth*, sold us; yet by proper Measures taken, we have regain'd that noble Branch of Trade, by the following Method.

King Henry VII. was the first Prince that put the *English* upon the Thought of manufacturing their own *Wooll*; he had been a kind of a *Refugee* in the Court of his Aunt the *Dutchess* of *Burgundy*, being forc'd to make his Escape from *Bretagne*, where he first harbour'd; while there, he had an Opportunity to see, as well as hear, of the mighty Increase and Improvement of the Commerce of those Countries; how populous their Cities, how rich their *Burghers*, how great their Merchants; how all the People were busy and employ'd; hardly a Child above five Years old, but could do something to gain his Bread; and particularly, it could not escape his Observation, that all this *Wealth*, all this Employment of the People, depended entirely upon the Supply of the Materials, viz. the *Wooll*, and the *Fuller's-Earth* from *England*; that they had not a Pack of their own *Wooll* in the whole Country: And if that Source should by any Accident be stop'd, they would
be

be all ruin'd ; their Trade would be at a full Stop, and, in a Word, that the *Manufacture* could not be carry'd on without it. To a *Prince* of such Penetration as he was, it could not but occur after he came to the Crown, that certainly *England* was much in the Wrong, to let their *Wooll* go out of the Country thus *unmanufactur'd*, and to let Strangers be made rich by the working of it, while his own People sat idle and unemploy'd, and, consequently, the Poor starving.

That, without doubt, where the *Principals* and *Materials* of the *Manufacture* were only to be had, there *Nature* seem'd to direct the making of the *Manufacture* itself, and there to be wrought to the greatest Advantage ; that, at least, it would be a Profit to his own Kingdom, and that he could see no Reason, why that Advantage should be given away ; therefore he resolv'd, that if he could prevent it, Strangers should no longer eat the Bread out of the Mouths of his own Subjects.

I need not enter here into the particular *Measures* that the King took to put this happy *Resolution* of his into *Execution* ; 'tis enough to mention it here, that in Pursuit of these Observations, he immediately set about the Work, apply'd himself to the finding out proper Instruments for the carrying it on, and to set the *Manufacture* of *Wooll* on Foot in several Parts of his *Kingdom*.

But

But without entring historically into Particulars of this Kind, which would be too tedious, 'tis sufficient to mention the anxious Care of this Prince for the *Prosperity* of his *People*, which has been follow'd with such glorious Success, that the *Example* is perfectly adapted to *fire* the *Breast* of any *succeeding Monarch*, who desires the *Good* of his *Subjects* with the same *paternal Warmth*, for the general *Improvement* of their *Trade*; and to this End I mention it thus, as address'd to the *Supreme Power* of the *British Government*, and at this time too, because, being assur'd that his present Majesty has the same *Ardour* and *Affection*, the same *Inclination*, and the *Advantage* of a much greater *Fund* of *Wealth*; a *knowing Ministry* and *Power*, for the advancing the *Interest* of his *People*.

Tho' King *Henry* acted with a *Vigour* becoming a Prince, and one that knew how to *Execute*, as well as how to *Resolve*, for the *Advantage* of his own *Dominions*; yet he knew withal, that it was an Attempt of such a *Magnitude*, as well deserv'd the utmost *Prudence* and *Caution*; that as it was not attempted rashly, so it was not to be push'd with too much *Warmth*, tho' he did not fail to encourage his *People* in *working* and *manufacturing*; and, at a considerable *Expence*, secretly procur'd a great many *Foreigners*, who were perfectly skill'd in the *Manufacture*, to
come

come over and instruct his own People here in their Beginnings; yet he did not immediately prohibit the exporting *Wooll* to the *Flemmings*, neither did he, till some Years after, load the *Exportation* of it with any more *Duties* than he had before.

Upon this Foot, I say, this *prudent Prince* went on by *Measures* perfectly well consulted, and particularly adapted to the End which he aim'd at; and tho' he did once pretend to stop the *Exportation* of *Wooll*, he conniv'd at the Breach of his Order, and afterwards took off the Prohibition intirely, leaving the Success of the Undertaking to the *Industry* of his People, whom he perceiv'd, to his great Satisfaction, went on with *Courage* and *Cheerfulness*, improv'd daily, and did at last entirely carry the *Trade* from the *Flemmings* by the mere Course of Things.

In this Manner the *Manufacture* began, and thus gradually increas'd; nor was it much less than One Hundred Years before *England* came to such Perfection, as to be able to claim the Property of it to themselves, and to prohibit the *Exportation* of the *Wooll*, which was not effectually done, till the *Spaniards Tyranny* under the *Duke D'Alva*, finish'd the Ruin of the *Netherlands*, by driving the *Dutch* into a *Common-wealth*, to cast off intirely the *Spanish Government*, and by forcing the *Protestant Flemmings*, who were indeed the chiefest *Manufacturers*, to take Shelter in *England*,
where

where they were immediately encourag'd to set up all such *Species* of the *Manufactures*, which were not erected before that time.

That it was from the Year 1489, when King *Henry* began to encourage the *Manufacture* in *England*, to the Year 1587, when Queen *Elizabeth* may be said to see it arrive to great Perfection.

It is worth observing here, in how short a time the *Queen* did fully stop the *Exportation* of *Wool*, which supported the *Manufacture* in *Flanders*, the *Commerce* of *England* spread into the remotest Parts of the known World; and carry'd it into every Part which the *Flemmings* had supply'd before, as well as many Places where they had not traded. The *Dutch*, who were erected into a *separate State*, under Queen *Elizabeth's* Protection, and who breaking off from the *Flemmings*, that is, from the *Spaniards*, had no *Commerce* with them; meddled not with *Manufacturing*, but apply'd themselves to *Fishing* and foreign *Merchandize*, and having before a very great Correspondence by their Rivers, viz. the *Maese*, the *Rhine*, and other Rivers into *Germany*, they naturally apply'd to *England* for *Woollen Goods*, which they had formerly been supply'd with from *Flanders*, and were, as we call them, our first Customers from abroad.

The *Queen*, heartily engag'd in the Interest of her People, and particularly espousing her Merchants, sent formal *Embassyes* with splendid

splendid Retinues, and in the most honourable Manner, for opening the *Sluices of Trade* for her Subjects, to the great *Duke, Emperor of Russia; Great Mogul, King of Persia*, and to every other Place where her enterprizing Subjects desir'd her; for it was at that time an *aspiring Age*, and the *English Merchants* encreas'd their Number of *Ships*, and extended their *Commerce*.

Under her Majesty's Conduct, and by her particular Encouragement, her *fortunate Navigators*, her *Merchants* and other *Adventurers* began to shew themselves not only experienc'd in, but *Patrons* and *Improvers* of *Navigation*, beyond all the *Traders* of the World; they ranged the *Seas*, having then no Rivals; searching the *Globe* for *Discoveries*, planting *Colonies*, and settling *Factories* in many Parts of the World.

By the *Queen's Management* in prohibiting the *Exportation* of *Wool*, the *Woollen Manufacture* in the *Netherlands* receiv'd its fatal Wound; the *Spanish Cruelty* scatter'd the chief Workmen, and the *Prohibition* starv'd them that were left, for having no more *Wool*, the Work itself stop'd at once, and the *Trade* expir'd and dy'd; nor has it been able since then to revive. Thus the *Flemings* were impoverish'd, grew poor, dispers'd and fled; their great *Cities*, such as *Antwerp, Ghent, Lisle*, and other Places wasted and decay'd; the People went away into other Parts to

seek *Peace* and *Employment*; the populous *Towns* became thin of *Inhabitants*, compar'd to what they were; and the new establish'd *Common-wealth* of *Holland* became *Rich* and *Numerous* out of their *Ruins*.

The *People* who remain'd, apply'd to other *Works*, such as *Lace*, *Linen*, and particularly *fine Thread*, *Cambricks*, and whatever else offer'd; for it must be own'd, they are a most industrious *People*.

They are now further reduc'd in their *Bounds* by the *French*, who have taken from them the whole *Province* of *Artois*, and great *Part* of *Flanders* and *Hainault*, and especially the *Port* of *Dunkirk*, and the great *Cities* of *Arras*, *Cambray*, *Doway*, *Lisle*, *St. Omers*, and many others; so that the remaining *Part*, which is now call'd the *Netherlands*, is but small, compar'd to what it was; and their *Trade* is chiefly confin'd to the *Merchandizing* *Part*, which they carry on by the *River* navigable with *Holland* on one side, and with *France* on the other, and by the *Manufacture* beforemention'd, of *Lace*, *Linen*, *Cambrick*, and *Thread*; but as to *Woolen Goods*, they are oblig'd to buy them of the *English*, to whom they formerly sold them.

And as *Nature* has given us *Fish* on our *Coast*, as she did the *Wool* on our *Land*, but much easier is it to be manag'd; so no *Power* should rival or obstruct us, in establishing the *Fishery*. We are happy in a *King*, as power-
ful,

ful, good, and kind to his *Subjects*, as King *Henry VII.* and a Queen as prudent, discreet, and wise as Queen *Elizabeth*, and under their auspicious Reigns, what may we not desire reasonably, but expect.

So much has been already written upon the Benefit of the *Fishery*, to be a *Nursery* for *Seamen*, for employing the necessitous Poor, extending our *Commerce*, encreasing *Shipping*, raising the Value of *Land*, and other Advantages; that it justly induc'd the passing of the late *Act* of *Parliament* for *Establishment* of the *South-Sea Company*, to carry on this great and beneficial Undertaking, as by the following Clause in their *Act* fully appears.

“ And for as much, as nothing can more
 “ conduce to the Encrease of Strength and
 “ Riches of this Kingdom, and breeding able
 “ Seamen to serve her Majesty, as well in time
 “ of War as Peace, than the preserving and
 “ enlarging the *Fishery* of this Realm: Be
 “ it therefore enacted by the Authority afore-
 “ said, that it shall and may be lawful, for
 “ her Majesty, her Heirs, and Successors, in,
 “ and by her Letters Patents of Incorpora-
 “ tion, or by any other Letters Patents under
 “ the Great Seal of *Great-Britain*, to direct
 “ a Stock, to consist of Twenty Shillings
 “ upon every Hundred Pound of the Capital
 “ Stock, of the said intended Company, to
 “ be rais'd by the Members thereof, in Pro-
 “ portion to their Stock at such Time, and

“ in such Manner, as her Majesty, her Heirs,
 “ and Successors, by such Letters Patent,
 “ shall think fit and direct, so as no other of
 “ her Majesty’s Subjects be thereby excluded
 “ from the *Fishing-Trade*; the said Stock to
 “ be kept a-part, and always imploy’d in the
 “ improving, enlarging, and carrying on the
 “ *Fisbery* of this Realm, or other *Fisbery*,
 “ for the Use and Benefit of the Members of
 “ the said Company, in Proportion to their
 “ Stock; provided always, and be it further
 “ enacted, That no Money shall be call’d in
 “ from the Members of the said Corporation
 “ to be erected in Pursuance of this Act, for
 “ carrying on the *Fisbery*, or other *Trade*
 “ hereby granted, but by the Order and Di-
 “ rection of a General Court to be call’d for
 “ that Purpose; and whereof there shall be
 “ at least fourteen Days Notice in the *Ga-*
 “ *zette*.

And for executing the said Power for
 establishing the *Fisbery*, no Time can be
 so proper as now, while we are at *Peace*
 with our *Neighbours*; and more especially,
 since our Salt is made of the same Nature
 and Quality, as that which is us’d by the
Dutch.

The laying a *small Tax* on *Rock-Salt* ex-
 ported, and on every *Salt-Pan* for a few
 Years, to be annually paid, to raise a Fund,
 as propos’d to be paid the *South-Sea Com-*
pany,

pany, or added to Subscriptions, would effectually establish this noble Undertaking; and as the Salt Proprietors would reap a separate and a very considerable Profit by this Branch of Trade, they might be willing, as it would, or might be made their Interest, chearfully to concur therein.

Thus it appears, by the foregoing Reasons that an unforc'd and natural Improvement may be made to our *Wealth* and *Substance*; and 'tis upon such Occasions the *Legislative Power* should to good Effect interpose, to give Encouragement with Care and Wisdom, and establish their *Characters* to future *Generations*. For it may have been for want of such a *Tax* and *Fund*, or some other such Encouragement, to lay a *Foundation* as herein propos'd, that the several *Patents*, *Charters*, and *Acts* of *Parliament* already pass'd for the Encouragement of the *Fishery*, have not had the desir'd Success; for the Coast of *Great-Britain* yields a continual Sea-Harvest of Benefit, to such as diligently apply themselves to the *Fishing-Trade*.

The *Summer-Fishing* for *Herrings*, beginneth about *Midsummer*, and lasteth some part of *August*; the *Winter Fishing* for *Herrings*, lasteth from *September* to the middle of *November*; both which extend from the *North of Scotland* to the *Thames-mouth*.

The

The *Fishing* for *Cod* at *Alanby, Workington,* and *Whitehaven,* near the Coast of *Lancashire* from *Easter,* untill *Whitsontide.*

The *Fishing* for *Hake* at *Fiscard* and other Places between *Wales* and *Ireland,* from *Whitsontide* to *St. James's-tide.*

The *Fishing* for *Cod* on the *West-part* of *Ireland,* frequented by those of *Piscay, Galicia,* and *Portugal,* from the Beginning of *April* to the End of *June.*

The *Fishing* for *Cod* and *Ling* on the *North* and *North-East* of *Ireland,* from *Christmas* untill *Michaelmas.*

The *Fishing* of *Pilchards* on the *West-Coast* of *England,* from *St. James's Day* untill *Michaelmas.*

The *Fishing* for *Cod* and *Ling* upon the *North-East* of *England,* from *Easter* untill *Midsummer.*

The *Fishing* of great *Staple-Ling,* and other Sorts of *Fish* lying about the *Islands* of *Scotland,* and in the several Parts of the *British-Seas,* all the Year.

Out of these infinite Swarms and Shoals of *Fish* on his Majesty's Seas, the *Herring,* *Cod,* and *Ling* taken by the *Dutch,* and other Strangers, were computed by the most experienc'd Authors, even when they had not half their present Number of *Fishing-Busses,* to amount, *Communibus Annis,* to no less a Sum, than *Ten Millions* of *Pounds Sterling;* and in *Anno 1669,* by the Accounts taken in *Holland,*

Holland, it appear'd, besides their *Inland Fishing*, 450,000 *Dutch Men* were then maintain'd by *Fishing*, and the *Trades* depending thereon.

Now, if so many People in *Holland*, which is but 180 Miles in Circuit, can subsist by *Fishing* on our *Coast*, how vast a *Trade* and *Commerce* would a full *Fishery* in *Great-Britain* produce?

The *Herrings* usually taken by 500 *Busses*, will yearly afford his Majesty, for Custom on Commodities return'd for *Fish*, about 60,000 *l.* and the Produce of such *Herrings*, taken without the Expence of any foreign Commodities, being added to that of the usual exported Products and Manufactories of these Kingdoms, will much exceed the amount of all our Annual necessary Imports, and cause such an Over-Ballance of Trade, as will turn the Scale in our Favour, stop the Export of our Money, and oblige our foreign Chapmen to send us Bullion, to make good the Difference.

The Want of Seamen, in time of War, at once to Man our Navy, and Navigate our Merchantmen and Colliers is detrimental to England, more than the Charge of a War itself; for the Men of War and Merchant Ships require many Seamen and breed few; the Colliers indeed bring up several Apprentices, but generally imploy near as many as they make.

The

The great Nursery of Seamen is the Fishery, where each *Buss* would bring up about Six, Eight, or Ten every Year; nor is their *Value* inferior to their *Numbers*; many brave *Officers* have been train'd up in that *School*, for the *Fishermens* Business, where our Dangers are; makes them know how the *Sands shift*, and where the *Rocks* and *Shelves* are, and consequently, most able *Coasters* and admirable *Pilots*.

King *Charles* the Second well knowing, these and many other *Advantages* would accrue to the Nation from a well govern'd Fishery, and that a *Company* with a joint *Stock*, was absolutely necessary and requisite to carry on the same, was pleas'd in the 29th Year of his *Reign*, to constitute several Persons, by the Name of *The ROYAL-FISHERY of England*; thereby also giving and granting unto the said *Company* and their *Succeffors*, divers *beneficial* *Clauses*, *Powers*, *Privileges*, and *Immunities*, in order for the well *Govern-*
ment of the said *Company*, and *Management* of their *Affairs*.

Whereupon, about 10,000 *l.* being subscribed, the *Company* proceeded, and in three Weeks Voyage, one of their *Doggers* brought them in *Thirty Thousand Cod*, and their small Craft in Proportion.

But the *Dutch* and the *Spaniards* being engag'd in a *War* with *France*, the *French* seiz'd the Vessels and Goods of the *Company*, as
Dutch,

Dutch, being some, or most of them were *Dutch-built* and *man'd*,, which Loss, by reason the Company's Stock was much too small for so great an Undertaking, *check'd* the Company's *Progress*, and prevented the *Benefit* that may be attain'd now in time of Peace; and for Encouragement to promote this *Great Work*, I shall insert the Words I find in *Lex Mercatoria*, fo. 112.

“ Now to shew, saith he, what the Charge
 “ of a *Bus* will be with all her Furniture,
 “ as *Masts, Sails, Anchors, Cables*, and with
 “ all *Fishery Implements* and *Appurtances* at
 “ the first, providing all *New*, she carrying
 “ between 30 and 40 Last, will cost 500 *l*.
 “ and may continue twenty Years with small
 “ *Reparations*; but the yearly *Ware and Tare*
 “ of her *Sails, Tackle, Ropes, and Netts*, may
 “ cost 80 *l*. and the whole Charge for the
 “ keeping her at *Sea*, for the whole *Summer*,
 “ or three *Voyages* for the filling of an 100
 “ Last, for *Cask or Barrels*, viz.

	<i>l</i> .	
“ 100 Last of Barrels	72	A Hundred Last of Barrels
“ Salt	18	fill'd and sold for 10 <i>l</i> . p. Last
“ Beer	42	is - - - - - 1000 <i>l</i> .
“ Bread	21	Deduct Charge
“ Bacon and Butter	18	335 <i>l</i> .
“ Pease and Biskets	76	
“ Mens Wages	88	665 <i>l</i> .

 335

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“ By which it plainly appeareth, that 665 *l.*
 “ is gain’d in one *Summer*, whereof you de-
 “ duct 100 *l.* for the wearing of the Ship, and
 “ the reparation of their *Netts* against the
 “ next *Summer*, yet still there is 565 *l.* re-
 “ maining for one Year; rating the *Herrings*
 “ sold at but 10 *l.* *per* Last, which are com-
 “ monly dispos’d of by the *Hollanders* at
 “ *Dantzick* for 15 to 20 *l.* *per* Last.

All Materials for a *Fishery* may be had as cheap, if not cheaper with us, than can be obtain’d by the *Dutch*; to the Credit of said Account may be added, the great Encouragement to a Company intituled to a Drawback.

Salt; the *Dutch* are oblig’d to fetch from *France* and *Portugal*, and *Rock-salt* from *England*, with *Coal* to use in *refining* the same; so that we can have *Salt* much cheaper than they, and our *Salt* is of so noble a Quality, that it will remove all those Mischiefs, which at present in the *Fishery* have Relation thereto.

Heretofore the *Hamburgers* us’d also to fish for *Herrings* with *Busses*, but being yearly frozen up one Month longer than the *Dutch*, they were by that Disadvantage only, beaten out of the *Trade*.

Now the *Shoars* of *Great-Britain* are bold; the *Coast Highland* and easily discover’d; several of our *Cape-lands*, opposite to *France* and *Holland*, make eddy *Bays*, whose Depth of Water is not shallow, as six, eight, or twelve Fathom;

Fathom; the Tides, on our Coast, are small and Anchor hold, generally *stiff Clay, Chalk, or hard Gravel*; so that we need not dread *Winter Storms*: Besides the Advantage of lying in a *moderate Climate*, and in the very *Centre of the Trade of Europe*, affords us Opportunity of sending to *foreign Markets* from divers of our Ports, at all *Seasons* of the Year; but the *Coast of Holland* lies extream low, and consequently, is more subject to be *hazy and foggy*, hath many Shoals and Sands, some of which lye so far off at Sea, that many times Ships are *stranded* before they see *Land*.

Their *Ports* likewise are often *choak'd up* with *Quick Sands*, which makes it dangerous for all large *Ships* to approach them.

Their *Havens* are also commonly *frozen up* some Months together, and a *North-West Wind*, generally blowing the greatest Part of the Year, makes *Holland* a *Lee*, and *England* a *Weather-shore*; so that many times, whilst they lie *Wind-bound*, or *frozen up* at home, we might supply the Markets abroad, as well as furnish ourselves with *Fish* at home in all our great *Cities* and *Towns*, where the same would be much esteem'd and well receiv'd.

It may be said, the *Dutch* are already settled in the *Fishery*; so they were, in *Dyeing* our Cloths, as were the *Flemmings* in the *Woollen Manufacture*; and not many Years ago, we imported *Silk-Stockings* from the *Levant*, as also *Glass* from *Venice*; yet now the

Case is alter'd, and we export the said Commodities to those *Parts*.

It has been also alledg'd, that other Nations, particularly the *Dutch*, are more laborious, and better able to *Fish* than the *English*, at which I much wonder, seeing our Men do daily run greater Hazards, and suffer greater Hardships in other *Voyages* than in *Fishing*: And for hard Labour; certainly the working in *Coal-Mines*, the *Keelmen* at *Newcastle*, and *Coal-beavers* at *London*, is Labour beyond that of a *Fishing-Buss*: And the *English*, *Scotch* and *Irish* live as hard as any *Dutchman* can, or will do, considering they work more.

And as to the *Genius* of our *People*, it is remarkable, that such *Boys* and *Country-fellows*, as at *Yarmouth*, *Scarborough*, and other *Sea-Ports*, when they are once hired into the *Fishery*, and come to feed on the *Fish* they catch, which for Variety and Delicacy, being fresh taken, is a *Feast* beyond what is to be had on Shoar, it improves them at such a Rate, that of *weak Striplings* at *Land*, they come to be *hardy*, *stout*, and *healthful Men*, and upon Tryal, find it so much to their Liking, that not one in twenty, but continue therein.

It may be reckon'd, *Two Thousand Five Hundred Persons* in a whole Year, are hardly able to make a Number of *Netts*, only for *Five Hundred Busses*, and it may be observ'd, that *England* hath many waste and much unimprov'd

improv'd Lands, therefore conclude, we shall want Hands.

But be pleas'd to consider, that, the fuller Employment for Hands we have, is the best Way to get more: That in *England*, the *Taxes* for the Poor amount to more than the Revenue of some of the neighbouring *Countries*; whereby it is evident, what great Numbers of *Beggars* and *idle Persons* now live upon the Publick, without Return of Labour for their Bread: Consider likewise, of how easy a Nature the *Gainful Business* of the *Fishery* is; *little Boys* and *Girls* may do the Work of *spinning Twine*, even the *Lame*, the *Weak*, and the *Aged* of both *Sexes*, may sit and earn their *Livelihoods* in *braiding* and *making Netts*, and in *picking Oakum*, &c. Nay, the very *Blind* may gain Subsistence, by turning *Wheels*, and you'll have Reason to conclude, that were our own Poor set to work, we should not long need to have our *Netts* made or mended at *Enchuyssen* in *Holland*. And as a constant Employment of such Poor will be a continual Ease and Comfort to them, by amusing and diverting them from thinking of their *Poverty*, or other *Misery*, so it will save the Nation several *Hundred Thousand Pounds per Annum* in *Taxes* and *Charities* to the Poor; the employing them, will, in some Measure, be a Re-peopling of us too, by adding so many Hands to the *Service* of the *Publick*.

Nor

Nor need we fear, but many Thousands of *English, Scotch, and Irish Mariners*, and others that serve our Neighbours, will return home, when so certain an Employment is set on Foot here, who will be able to *catch, cut, pack, salt and cure Fish* for us, as they us'd to do for them, and consequently teach others.

Should Hands be wanting to manage the *Fishery*, the Parliament can easily make good that Defect, by enacting, that all such single Persons by the Statutes of 43 *Eliz.* 2. 1 *Jac.* 25. 2 *Jac.* 28. the 3 *Car.* 4, and other Acts, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, are empower'd to put out Apprentices, together with all such others as shall be put out Apprentices by any *Corporations*, or other *Charities*, upon due Request made by them, who shall carry on a *Fishery*, --- should by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or by a Justice of Peace, be bound *Apprentice* for Seven Years, to learn one of the *Two and Thirty Trades*, that relate to the *Fishery*, and for whom, it will be their *Masters Interest*, to adapt the soberest and best Workmen of each Trade, according to their *Genius*.

Now such Apprentices in the *Fishing Season* being employ'd at *Sea*, and working at other times ashore, at one of the *Two and Thirty Trades* relating to the *Fishery*, to which they may be bound, when their Time is out, will be able to get their *Livelihoods* at *Sea* or *Land*,
and

and be an *additional Strength* to the Nation, upon any *Emergency*.

To conclude, we may easily assert and maintain the *just Right* and *Title*, *Providence* hath given his Majesty to that *richer Gold Mine*, than what both *Indies* afford, the *Fisbery* of the *British* and *Irish Seas*, and that without *quarreling* with our *Neighbours*; for by a frugal Management of *Affairs*, we may soon become perfect in the *Fishing Trade*.

And we have Reason to believe, our great and good King, who studies the Welfare of his Kingdoms, will contribute all necessary Assistance to a *Work*, that in so great a Measure, will extend our *Trade* and encrease our *Wealth*, so often attempted, and heartily wish'd for by his *Predecessors*. And what reasonable Encouragement may we not expect from his Majesty and Parliament, since in the Preamble of many Acts of Parliament it is declar'd.

“ That the publick *Honour*, *Wealth*, and
 “ *Safety* of this *Realm*, as well in the Main-
 “ tenance of *Trade* and Support of *Naviga-*
 “ *tion*, as in many other *Respects*, both in a
 “ high Degree, depend upon the *Improvement*
 “ and *Encouragement* of the *Fisbery*, &c.

If I have not sufficiently prov'd, that the *Fisbery* lies fairer for us than the *Dutch*, and our Embarking therein, the only Means to obtain the *Ballance* of *Trade*, or not fully answer'd all *material Objections* to the con-
 trary,

trary, I should be glad to know it, to endeavour to obviate the same. In the Intrin, I may venture to affirm, that the *Fishery* being carried on, is of an absolute, indispensable Necessity, as well as a sensible *Advantage* to the *Well-Being*, both of King and People; and therefore hope, the *South-Sea Company* will think it their Interest, as well as Business, to proceed in this beneficial *Trade* of the *Herring Fishery*, or encourage the Establishing of the *Royal-fishery*, or some other *Company*, to carry on this *Noble Undertaking*, by appropriating or calling in one *per Cent.* on their Capital Stock, as the Act directs; and on failure of any particular Member being concern'd, there's no doubt of its being supply'd by Members of other Companies, desirous to promote their own Interest, and that of their Country: For in the Year 1719 and part of 1720, there seem'd to be no Spirit or Resolution wanting in the People of *Great-Britain*, to advance Money to set on Foot, and carry on this useful Branch of Trade; but the various, and almost numberless Schemes, to raise Money for other Purposes, calculated only for the separate Advantage of a few designing Persons; gave just Occasion for the Legislative Power to interpose, and pass an *Act for Assurance of Ships, &c.* and for, *Restraining several Extravagant and Unwarrantable Practices* therein mention'd, commonly call'd the *Bubble Act.* Which

Which had its good Effect in putting a Check to the imaginary Views of Adventurers ; and by the Impositions that appear'd in the Conduct of the Directors of the *South-Sea Company*, and Managers of several *Corporations* and *Societies* ; the *Fishery* and many other useful *Undertakings* became also neglected, for fear of incurring the Penalties in the said Act ; tho' it can't be suppos'd, any Court of Justice would apprehend the Establishing the *Fishery* in an effectual Method by any Corporation, to be an extravagant and unwarrantable Practice, which I conceive, that Act was only intended against ; and not the carrying on the *Fishery*, or any useful *Branch of Trade*, all useful *Undertakings* being excepted, by a Clause in the said Act. Provided that nothing in the said Act should extend to prohibit, or restrain the carrying on of any home or foreign Trade in Partnership, in such Manner as hath been hitherto usually, and may be legally done, according to the Laws of this Realm now in Force : And further, That nothing in the Act should extend, or be constituted to extend to any Corporation formerly created for the carrying on a Trade, which they have publicly continu'd to exercise from the time of their Establishment, or any Subscriptions made, or to be made, for enlarging the Capital Stock of the Governor and Company of Merchants of Great-Britain, trading to the South-Seas, or any other Parts of America, and for encour-

aging the Fishery, by, or by Order of the General Court, or Court of Directors of the said Company, or any Receipts made out and given, or to be made out, in Respect of such Subscriptions; but that all such Subscriptions made, and to be made, should be firm and valid, and all Receipts made out, or given, concerning the same, should be assignable at Law, by Endorsement made, or to be made thereon; any thing in this, or in any other Act, or by any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

So it is plain, the carrying on the *Fishery* is particularly preserv'd, and can never be construed within this, or any other Act, *An Extravagant, or Unwarrantable Practice*; --- but that the *Fishery* may be carry'd on by the *South-Sea Company*, or the *Members* thereof, in any good Method, for their Advantage and Benefit, or by such who shall subscribe thereto.

Much more might be said on this Subject, but what has been already set forth, is sufficient to shew the Usefulness and Advantage of the Undertaking; and if what is propos'd, meets with Approbation, it may encourage others to communicate their Thoughts for the well carrying on of the *Fishery*, the gradual Augmentation of the Profits therein, and for the Interest, Honour, and Welfare of this Nation in General.

Besides

Besides the several *Acts* of *Parliament*, *Charters*, and *Patents*, which have pass'd since the Commencement of the *Union* between *England* and *Scotland*, in the 15th Article of that Settlement, 2000 *l. per Ann.* is appropriated for the Encouragement of the *Woollen Manufacture* and *Fishers* of that *Country*; and by an *Act* pass'd in the Fifth Year of his late Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for settling certain Yearly Funds, payable out of the Revenue of Scotland, to satisfy publick Debts in Scotland, and other Uses mention'd in the Treaty of Union; and discharge the Equivalent claim'd in Behalf of Scotland, in the Terms of the said Treaty, and for obviating all future Disputes, Charges, and Expences concerning those Equivalents.* It is amongst other things provided, that the said 2000 *l. per Ann.* shall be paid annually, the first Payment to commence from *Michaelmas* 1719, to be charg'd upon, and paid out of the Money arising, and to rise from time to time, of, or any of the *Customs*, *Duties*, *Excises*, or *Revenues*, that are, or shall be under the Management of the Commissioners of the *Customs*, and Commissioners of the *Excise* in *Scotland*, after the Payments therein directed to be made, and subject to Redemption by *Parliament*, upon Payment of the full Sum of 40,000 *l.* and all Arrears of the said Annuity, if any such be, in such Manner, as is more particularly mention'd in the said *Act*, to be wholly apply'd towards the

encouraging and promoting the *Fisheries*, &c. And by an Act pass'd in the 12th Year of his late Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for continuing the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, in that part of Great-Britain, call'd England; and for granting to his Majesty, certain Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, in that part of Great-Britain call'd Scotland, for the Service of the Year 1726.* It is amongst other things provided, That if the Rate of *Three-pence per Bushel* charg'd upon *Malt* to be made in *Scotland*, should produce a greater Sum than 20,000*l.* clear of all Charges of Management, the Surplus so produc'd, over and above the said Sum of 20,000*l.* should be wholly apply'd towards the encouraging and promoting the *Fisheries*, and such other *Manufactures* and *Improvements* in *Scotland*, as may most conduce to the general Good of the *United Kingdom*; and to no other *Use, Intent, or Purpose* whatsoever, in such Manner, as should thereafter be settled and directed by Parliament; and in the 13th Year of his late Majesty's Reign, its enacted, "To
 " the End therefore, that these several Funds
 " and Sums of Money, and any other Fund or
 " Sum of Money, that may arise, grow due, or
 " be provided, and become payable for the Ad-
 " vancement and Improvement of the *Fisher-*
 " *ries* and *Manufactures* in that Part of *Great-*
 " *Britain*, call'd *Scotland*, may be regularly
 " apply'd for the said Purposes. Be it en-
 " acted

“ acted by the King’s most excellent Majesty,
 “ by and with the Advice and Consent of the
 “ Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Com-
 “ mons, in this present Parliament assembled,
 “ That it shall and may be lawful, to, and
 “ for his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, by
 “ Letters Patents under the Great Seal, ap-
 “ pointed by the *Treaty of Union* to be kept
 “ to be kept in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great
 “ Seal thereof, to lay down, settle, and esta-
 “ blish a particular Method, and to fix and
 “ direct proper Rules and Regulations, where-
 “ by the several Funds and Sums aforesaid,
 “ already provided and grown due, or which
 “ hereafter shall be provided and grown due,
 “ for the Improvement and Encouragement
 “ of *Fisherys* and *Manufactures* in that Part of
 “ *Great-Britain* call’d *Scotland*, shall be whol-
 “ ly apply’d, laid out, and distributed, ac-
 “ cording to the Tenor and true Meaning of
 “ of the said 15th Article of the *Treaty of*
 “ *Union*, for the Improvement of *Fishery*
 “ and other *Manufactures* in *Scotland*, as
 “ as may most conduce to the general Good
 “ of the United Kingdom, and to no other
 “ Use, Intent, or Purpose whatsoever; which
 “ Plan and Method of *Distribution* shall con-
 “ tinue and endure, and be a full *Authority*
 “ for applying the *Monies* in the Manner
 “ therein to be directed, till the same shall be
 “ alter’d or varied in the Manner herein after
 “ express’d,

“ And

“ And be it further enacted, by the Authority
 “ rity aforesaid, that it shall, and may be
 “ lawful to, and for his Majesty, his Heirs,
 “ and Successors, by Letters Patents under
 “ the Seal aforesaid, to appoint, name, and
 “ authorize any Number of Persons residant
 “ in *Scotland*, not exceeding the Number of
 “ Twenty-One, to be Trustees and Commis-
 “ sioners for managing and directing the Ap-
 “ plication of the said Sums, according to
 “ the Plan or Method that shall be settled
 “ and establish’d as aforesaid, and for execu-
 “ ting the several Powers and Authorities,
 “ which by the said Letters Patents shall to
 “ them be committed by his Majesty, his
 “ Heirs, or Successors.

And the said Act further enables his Majesty to appoint the Receiver-General of the Crown Rents of *Scotland*, to be Treasurer, and that the Lord High Commissioner, or Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being, to issue out Warrants and Orders to the proper Persons, for making Payment of all and every the Sums of Money, particularly and generally abovemention’d, due and payable, or that shall fall due or payable hereafter, for encouraging and promoting *Fishery* and *Manufatures* in *Scotland*, as the same shall severally become due, according to the Direction of the Acts abovemention’d, to the said Receiver General of the Crown Rents and Casualties in *Scotland*, without Fee or
 Reward,

Reward, to be by him answer'd and issu'd in like Manner, so and by the Order of the said Commissioners and Trustees, pursuant to such Directions, as shall be given in that Behalf, by the said Letters Patents.

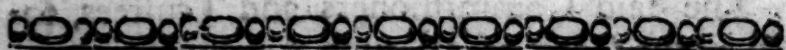
The said Commissioners and Trustees, to lay a true Copy of all such Accounts, in relation to the said Trustees, before his Majesty, every *Christmas*, or in Thirty Days after; with a Report of such Alterations in the Management for the Improvement of the *Fishery*, &c. as they may think necessary to be made.

And agreeable to the said Powers, Trustees and Commissioners have been appointed, and by the joint Endeavours of the said worthy Gentlemen, distinguish'd for Men of true Honour and Integrity, with the *South-Sea Company*, *Committee*, or some other *Corporation* or *Society*, a Plan might be settled for effectually settling and establishing the said *Fishery*, and thereby answer the Intent of the respective Powers, granted for the said Purpose and Design of the *Union*, to the general Advantage of both Kingdoms.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

PAGE 7 line 5 read *Islanders* after the word *Degree*, instead of after the word *Continent*. p. 25 l. 7 if not on the *Bri-tyh-Seas*, to be left out.



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SOME further Observations and Methods
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